

1-20-1983

## Criminal Justice "Ernest Harris" 5/2/1983 Inmate letter to Leland for help

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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*Clew*

Mr. Ernest L. Harris  
TDC No. 332811  
Wynne Unit, B-1-3-23  
Huntsville, Texas 77340

May 2, 1983

Honorable Mickey Leland, Congressman  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

RECEIVED MAY 2 6 1983

Dear Mr. Leland:

Presently I am being incarcerated at the Texas Department of Corrections, Huntsville, Texas. I am from Illinois and had held legal residence there prior to coming to Texas. While still a ward of the state of Texas, I still hold, what I refer to as, legal residence in the state of Illinois, and plan to return upon release from such confinement. As to what might be termed by legal residence at this moment, I am not quite sure. I am totally unaware as to what District I may be in now, or who the Congressman may be in this area, yet I address this letter to you in hopes that you might give aid in an area that is of great concern to me.

In my home state, I have always advocated that it is the right and duty of every citizen of this country to participate in the election process of governmental officials that represent the people of this country. Our government is a government of the people and if the people do not participate fully, then it is only a government representing a chosen few. Although I am now a convicted felon, I as a human being am still a citizen of this country. A citizen who chooses to have his voice heard in this governmental process. I have always felt that total voter participation in any governmental election process is a duty of every citizen of this country regardless of whatever circumstances. Voting rights information has never been made available to me nor anyone else to my knowledge while being confined in the Texas Department of Corrections. If limitations and/or restrictions exist in State voting laws of this state, I am unaware of such and wish to be made informed. To my knowledge, there are no limitations and/or restrictions existing in my present penal condition to participate in Federal Elections. My main concern at this time is the upcoming Presidential Election year and what necessary steps will I need to take NOW to insure that my voting rights will not be obstructed during the correct voting time. My incarceration stems from a felony conviction in Harris County.

Your assistance on this matter will be greatly appreciated and I most eagerly await your reply.

Respectfully,

*Ernest L. Harris*

Ernest L. Harris

C.H. COMBS III  
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF TEXAS  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 10-19-85  
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO  
BEFORE ME THIS 2 DAY  
May 19 83  
*C.H. Combs III*